

REMARKS

Claims 3-9 remain pending. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled, without prejudice. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

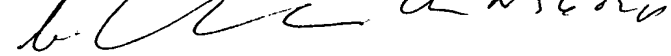
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3-9 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,287,885 to Muto et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,440,766 to Clark. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 and 2 should now be withdrawn.

Each of the issues raised has been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Passage to issuance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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